

account of the rare *Æstrelata sandwichensis*, known previously from one young and two adult specimens, of which Mr. Bryan found a colony and secured a large series of adults, of which measurements are given of eight males and twelve females. Although closely related to *Æstrelata phæopygia* of the Galapagos Islands, it proves to be somewhat smaller, with a slenderer bill and slightly different in color. Mr. Bryan's annotated list of 28 species contains many important notes on other rare species, and one — *Phæornis rutha* — is described as new.— J. A. A.

Annual Report of the National Association of Audubon Societies for 1908.¹

— The fourth annual report of the President, William Dutcher, occupies about fifty pages of the November–December number of 'Bird-Lore' for 1908, and contains the 'President's Address' (pp. 277–284), the Report of the Secretary' (pp. 284–287), 'Reports of Field Agents' (288–295), 'State Audubon Reports' (pp. 296–318), a List of the Officers and Members (pp. 319–325), and the Report of the Treasurer (pp. 326–329).

As stated by the President: "What this Association has accomplished during the few years of its existence speaks for itself, and it may be truly said, I think, that very few organizations of a mixed character, such as the National Association, which is partly philanthropic and esthetic, but mostly economic, have made such great strides in the estimation of the public, as well as in benefits conferred on the citizens of the country. When our work was started, there were few laws for the protection of wild birds and animals, especially those that are beneficial to agriculture and forestry; to-day this condition is entirely changed. Further, a sentiment for the protection of wild life could hardly be said to exist; to-day such a sentiment is widespread and is fast growing, owing to the educational work of the Audubon Societies through the press and by illustrated leaflets. What has been accomplished is a monument to the faithful and intelligent work of a few hundred people scattered throughout the country. To-day, I can point with pride to a strong and thoroughly equipped organization, virile and full of activity and promise for the future outcome of the work of the National and State Audubon Members."

The address then discusses plans of work for the future, and deals, first, with the subject of ways and means, in connection with the work to be accomplished. The income of the Association goes but a short way in meeting the legitimate demands upon it, and an appeal is made for its increase. Then are explained the educational measures employed, which include lectures, leaflets, and the public press. Also the legislative work, which is of the highest importance and entails a considerable outlay of funds, as when an important bill is under consideration, "a representative of the Association must be present at the hearing and speak for or against it." "In the matter of bird legislation, there is no resting-place; the only price of satisfactory bird protection is eternal watching of legislatures, for in an

¹ Bird-Lore, Vol. X, 1908, pp. 277–329, with several half-tone plates.

unguarded moment an amendment may be passed that will undo the work of years." And there are forty-four legislatures to watch!

Reservations, to be effective, must be patrolled by wardens, and whether the refuges are established by the Federal Government or are held under leases by the Association, the necessary wardens have to be supplied by the Association. Hence with the setting aside of each new reservation the responsibilities and expenses of the Association are proportionately increased. "How rapidly this work may be extended," says Mr. Dutcher, "depends entirely upon the public itself. If this appeal falls upon unwilling ears and hearts, our progress will be slow, but if, on the other hand, our plans and suggestions meet with the sympathy and support they deserve, progress will be very rapid." The Secretary's report states that "nine additional reservations have been formed during the past year by President Roosevelt upon the recommendation of President Dutcher"; and that, in all, "there are now twenty-three National Reservations under the care of this Association."

The reports of field agents include a report by Edward Howe Forbush for New England, and by William B. Finley for Oregon and the Northwest Coast region. Mr. Finley gives a detailed account of his and Mr. Bohlman's exploration of the bird life of the lakes of southern Oregon, which is not only important from the view point of bird protection but is of special interest as a sort of census of the water bird colonies of the extensive lakes and marshes of southern Oregon and northern California. Here the plume hunters have remained at work continually, killing thousands of Grebes and other birds. "It is," says Mr. Finley, "a difficult matter to stop shooting in such a vast area that is so profitable to the plume hunter, but we expect to succeed. There are at present six indictments against plume hunters filed in the District Attorney's office at Burns, for shooting Grebes on Malheur Lake." He adds: "To show how little observance has been given to the game laws in southeastern Oregon, it has been the custom for parties to go down to Malheur Lake in the fall when Swan, Snow Geese and other birds are migrating, and kill these birds merely for the feathers, which are sold at so much per pound."

Such facts indicate the necessity for a strong central organization of bird protectors, like the National Association, and how essential it is that greatly increased funds be made available for its work.— J. A. A.

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey for 1908.¹— Dr Merriam's report summarizes briefly the work of the Bureau of Biological Survey for the year ending June 30, 1908. This includes: "(1) Investigation of the economic relations of birds and mammals to agriculture; (2) investigations concerning the geographic distribution of animals and plants with reference to the determination of the life and crop belts of the country; (3) supervision of matters relating to game preservation and protection, and the importation of foreign birds and mammals." Among

¹ From Annual Reports of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1908. Pp. 22.